

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, the courtesies extended by Examiner Mayo during the interview conducted on November 24, 2003, are greatly appreciated.

During the interview, proposed amendments to claims 12, 21 and 30 were discussed. Specifically, Applicant's undersigned representative proposed to amend claims 12 and 30 by reciting that the insulating coated layer covers and **contacts** the core wire. Examiner Mayo agreed that such a limitation structurally defines claims 12 and 30 from Ferlier et al, since in Ferlier et al there is no teaching or suggestion of the insulating coated layer (20, 21), 14 or 24 covering and "contacting" the core wire 16.

During the interview, a possible combination of the prior art as depicted in figures 5-7 and Ferlier et al was also discussed. With regard to this possible combination, it was agreed that even though in Figure 6 the insulating coated layer 1c is shown to cover and contact the core wire 1b, and in Ferlier et al the layer 14 is stated to "facilitate laser beam absorption" (column 2, lines 22-24), a combination of this prior art would not result in the invention as recited in claims 12 and 30.

Specifically, the insulating coated layer 1c is to absorb a laser beam so as to be melted and stripped away upon the laser beam penetrating the insulated coated layer such that the core wire can be soldered. To the contrary, the insulating coated layer in Ferlier et al., i.e. (20, 21), 14 or 24, is to absorb a laser beam so as to prevent the laser beam from penetrating therethrough such that the insulating coated layer remains, whereby provided is a contrast of the insulating coated layer relative to outer layer 19, 13 or 23. Accordingly, because of the different purposes for which the insulating coated layers of Ferlier et al and the admitted prior art absorb a laser beam, there would have been no motivation or suggestion to have combined this prior art so as to arrive at the invention as recited in claims 12 and 30.

Similarly, it was also agreed that proposed claim 21 would define around a combination of the prior art as depicted in figures 5-7 and Ferlier et al, since there would have been no

motivation or suggestion to have combined the teachings of this prior art so as to arrive at the invention as recited in claim 21 due to the different purposes for which the insulating coated layers of Ferlier et al and the admitted prior art absorb a laser beam as discussed above.

Accordingly, by the current amendment claims 12, 21 and 30 have been amended so as to recite the features discussed during the interview that were agreed to define around the prior art relied upon by the Examiner.

In this regard, each of claims 12 and 30 recite an enameled wire comprising a core wire, and an insulating coated layer covering and "contacting said core wire", and claims 12, 21 and 30 also each recite the purpose of the insulating coated layer efficiently absorbing a laser beam, i.e. so as to be "melted and stripped away" upon absorbing the laser beam.

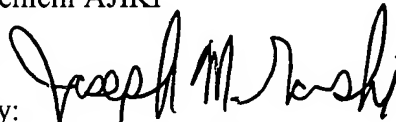
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenichi AJIKI

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